

Appln No. 09/530,145

Amdt date October 8, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-26 are currently pending in this application, where claims 12-14, 17, 18, 20 and 22 are allowed.

The Examiner rejects claims 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,292) in view of Baker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,366). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 10 recites: "A gateway device . . . in which information to be communication is made up of a header field including an address and a message field . . . , said gateway device comprising: judging means for judging, based on contents of said message field, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). Kurata fails to teach or suggest this limitation.

Kurata discloses a multiplex transmission apparatus where "[e]ach of the communication nodes 11, 12, and 13 of the network 1 identifies based on the ID code of a frame on the first multiplex transmission path 10 whether or not the frame is addressed to itself." (Col. 4, lines 12-15). Thus, in Kurata, the ID code of a frame identifies the destination of a frame.

Kurata also discloses that "[t]he node 30 checks based on the ID code of a frame of the first multiplex transmission path 10 whether or not data transfer from the network 1 to the network 2 is required." (Col. 4, lines 23-26). Therefore, Kurata judges the necessity of a data transfer and the destination of such transfer based on the ID code of a frame.

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In Kurata, the ID code is included in the header portion of the frame, and is not part of the message field. (See, FIG. 2). The message field in Kurata includes data 1 to data N, none of which are used to determine whether the frame should be transmitted. Thus, Kurata fails to teach or suggest a "judging means for judging, based on contents of said message field, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added).

In rejecting claim 10, the Examiner appears to make no distinction between the claimed "header field" and "message field." The Examiner's argument is that the ID code disclosed in Kurata meets both the limitation of the "message field" as well as the limitation of a "header field." (See, Office action, p. 2, par. 4; p. 3, par. 3). However, claim 10 clearly requires both a "header field" and a "message field" in the information to be communicated.

Claim 10 further includes the limitation of "a filtering means for transmitting said received information to said other communication bus when said received information is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted." The Examiner acknowledges that Kurata does not disclose the recited filtering means. However, he relies on Baker to make up for this deficiency.

Baker discloses that "filtering can be done based on the hardware address, the protocol type and the protocol name or address. If any of these is enabled, the logic checks the table to see if the frame needs to be forwarded to the wireless LAN or

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to be discarded." (Col. 4, lines 57-61). Baker also states that "a filter is devised to look at packets of information on the wired LAN and determine whether the information is to be passed by the access point to the wireless LAN." (Col. 5, lines 52-55).

Baker further states that "FIG. 5 illustrates a table that can be used at each an [sic] access point for the purpose of broadcast filtering. Associated with each Hardware or MAC address, as shown in FIG. 6, is a mobile terminal and all the names and addresses used for that mobile terminal in higher layer protocols are identified in a row." (Col. 5, lines 60-65). Thus, Baker teaches filtering based on a physical address, a protocol type, or a protocol address. However, nothing in Baker teaches or suggests filtering based on the result of a judgment based on contents of a message field. Accordingly, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, it recites "a message field including a command" and a gateway device "comprising: judging means for judging, based on said command, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). Claim 16 similarly recites "a message field including a command" and a "method of gatewaying comprising the steps of: (a) judging, based on the command contained in the message field of said communication data, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is the information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus." (Emphasis added). There is nothing in

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Kurata or Baker that teaches or suggests filtering packets based on a command in a message field instead of a header field. Accordingly, claims 11 and 16 are also in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 15 includes limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 10 which make claim 10 allowable. Accordingly, claim 15 is also in condition for allowance.

Claims 19, 21, and 23-26 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

With respect to claims 19 and 21, these claims specifically recite that "the contents of the message field is payload information." In rejecting these claims, the Examiner contends that the recited "payload information" corresponds to the "data length" illustrated in FIG. 2 of Kurata. (Office action, p. 3, lines 10-13). Even if, *arguendo*, the Examiner is correct in contending that "payload information" corresponds to "data length," Kurata still fails to teach or suggest the "judging means" recited in claim 10 since Kurata does not make any determination as to whether a data frame is to be transmitted based on a frame's data length.

With respect to claims 23 and 24, these claims recite that "the header field includes information specifying a destination address." However, as argued above with respect to claim 10, the same code ID relied upon as teaching the limitation of the recited "message field" in claim 10 is relied upon as teaching the limitation of the "header field" in claims 23 and 24. Thus, the Examiner has in effect ignored that the recited "information

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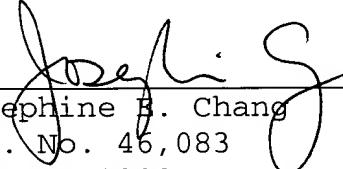
to be communicated" in the base claims is to be made up of both a "header field" and a "message field."

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26 in addition to the already allowed claims 12-14, 17, 18, 20, and 22.

Respectfully submitted,

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